

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1231
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/12098/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru

13 January 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November regarding the petition from the Rewilding Group, Climate Change Grand Committee, Cardiff University School of Law and Politics requesting the introduction of greener 'bee-friendly' bus stops in Wales.

As a Government, we are very supportive of green initiatives and are already making progress in relation to the greening of public transport stops and stations. Some local authorities are starting to install bus shelters with 'living roofs' using the Welsh Government's local transport fund. In December 2020, Transport for Wales was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £100,000 for a Green Routes Project via the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature Scheme. The project will deliver biodiversity enhancements such as planters and wildlife boxes, and pilot fixed green features, for example walls and roofs, at 22 stations across Wales and five community areas.

As part of the mitigation and biodiversity enhancements for new road infrastructure projects, we have standard requirements for the introduction of wildflower areas. Under our 'Green Corridors' initiative, from 2018 to date, over 100 road verge improvement projects have been completed with over 5ha of new wildflower areas sown, supplemented by native bulb planting and 'plug' planting (young plants) such as Primroses, Cowslips and Scabious. We have also brought an additional circa 25ha of grassland into favourable management across the motorway and trunk road network, including reclaiming areas lost to invasive scrub. *In addition to this, within the recently published Wales Transport Strategy, we committed to examining and resetting our approach to biodiversity and are currently producing our own Biodiversity Plan for the trunk road and motorway network. This will build on the existing Green Corridors initiative and the previous Trunk road estate Biodiversity Action Plan and will aim to further embed biodiversity and climate change resilience in our decision-making and actions.*

There is also a role for the Planning system in securing some of the broader objectives that the petitioner is seeking. Our land use planning policy document, Planning Policy Wales, outlines that landscaping, green roofs, grass verges, sustainable urban drainage and gardens are examples of individual measures that can have wider cumulative benefits, particularly in relation to biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems as well as in securing the other desired environmental qualities of

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

places. Future Wales, our national development framework, published in February 2021, refers to the need to embed green infrastructure within design solutions and contains a dedicated policy on resilient ecological networks and green infrastructure.

We have asked local authorities to undertake Green Infrastructure Assessments. The Assessments are a positive means to delivering sustainable placemaking outcomes; understanding your 'patch' and identifying the opportunities available to deliver multiple benefits is 'good planning' and all authorities must undertake the Assessment. The Green Infrastructure Assessment can help authorities identify priorities for new green roofs and help integrate green infrastructure into new development proposals.

In terms of the specific proposals and targets in the petition, as outlined above, whilst we don't have a specific target in place in terms of bus shelters, we are working closely with our partners and communities in much broader terms to encourage greening of areas across Wales through a number of initiatives and this work will continue to be a significant priority for the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is positioned above the typed name. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical stroke at the beginning.

Lee Waters AS/MS

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